12/24/61

Almighty and Eternal God, with hearts full of joy and gladness we turn to thee. In this season O Lord we witness thine eternal love for us. At this time we are made aware that thou art Almighty and the master of all creation. The good news that we have been given a savior, walks up on us and overflows in a wealth of warmth and affection. At this time, like no other we are aware of thy wisdom and mercy, thine omnipotence and our own smallness.

We are truly grateful, O God, for all thou hast done for us: For thy ceaseless love that became flesh in Jesus Christ. For thy painstaking care and tender mercy that brought about the humble beginning in Bethlehem. We thank thee O God for being forever faithful to ~~for~~ man, for thine undying love that was willing to die that man might live. We thank thee O God for inspiring men down through the ages with that same love. We give thee thanks for all instances of selflessness and generosity we see about us. For families whose love carries us through; for friends whose companionship brings joy to our lives: for children whose innocence and gaiety is surely a sign of thine own tenderness.

O thou who didst care enough for us to enter our life in Jesus Christ we humbly acknowledge thy lordship over all. In a world torn by strife and the threat of war we look to thee for guidance. Impress on us O God, that the shining star of Bethlehem is testimony that Good shall defeat evil: that ultimately light shall reign over darkness. Help us to always put our trust in thy guidance and oversight.

O thou who hast shown thyself to be full of kindness and concern: help us at this time to demonstrate those same virtues. Inspire us with the spirit of Christ that all our dealings may be just and kind, that in our relationships with one another we may be compassionate and understanding.

O thou who hast given us a son who is healing in his wings, look with mercy upon all those whose joy is dominished at this season. Be with the Saviours as they mourn the death of a loved one; send thy healing grace on all those who are ill.

Grant O God, that we may truly worship thee now by this day. Give us insight beyond understanding, above all ~~openness~~ openness of spirit that the glorious [illegible] may grasp us - and awaken in us [illegible]